



United States  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20207

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
A 8/19/96  
No other actions or  
Products Identified  
Exempted  
Firms Notified  
Comments Provided

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 1996

TO : File

Through: Patricia Adkins  
Chief of Staff to the Chairman, COAB

FROM : Lawrence L. Hershman *LH*  
Special Assistant to the Chairman, COAB

SUBJECT: Log of Chairman Ann Brown's Meeting  
with Harold Jetter and Mary Martha McNamara  
at CPSC Headquarters on March 7, 1996

The Chairman met with Harold Jetter, president of General Nitewear Corp., of New York, New York, and his outside attorney, Mary Martha McNamara, of Alexandria, Virginia. Lawrence L. Hershman, special assistant to Chairman Brown, also attended the meeting. Mr. Jetter requested the meeting, through Ms. McNamara.

Mr. Jetter began the meeting by saying that he completely agreed with a statement the Chairman made in 1994 about sleepwear flammability. Mr. Jetter related that he has been in the pajama business for 46 years without a claim. He mentioned that the civil penalty he paid to the Commission involved a problem with piping.

Mr. Jetter stated that he is concerned that sales of polyester flame retardant pajamas, such as those that his company manufactures, will suffer, and that competition from cotton will cause these garments to disappear within a year. He said that flame retardant pajamas will be more expensive than cotton. His company's sales have been down twenty percent since CPSC began its stay of enforcement. Employment at his firm has dropped from 325 to 190.

Mr. Jetter specifically objected to the CPSC staff-proposed wording of a label to be affixed to cotton sleepwear. He objects to the statement that the garment should be tight fitting because loose fitting garments are more likely to ignite and burn. Such language, he feels, would unfairly create the impression that even loose fitting flame resistant garments should be avoided. Mr. Jetter suggests the following:

*Flame resistant sleepwear is recommended. This garment is not flame resistant and should fit tightly.*

*L*

Mr. Jetter also pointed out other problems with the proposed amendments, including inconsistencies in sizing between different garments and manufacturers.

Mr. Jetter concluded that he originally made cotton pajamas and objected when CPSC enacted the current sleepwear flammability standards, but that he has since become a believer in the safety benefits of complying sleepwear and that it would be a mistake to regress (i.e., to pass the proposed amendments).